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SAN DIEGO (AP) - The collapse of communism in the Soviet Union has removed the main target of CIA snooping, but hasn't eliminated the need for the agency itself, former Director William Colby said.

The CIA will shift to gathering information on terrorists, drug lords and rogue countries, Colby said in a speech Tuesday at San Diego State University.

Colby, who was CIA director during the Nixon and Ford administrations, said the appointment of former CIA analyst Robert Gates as the agency's new director indicates the increasing importance of analysis in CIA activities.

''Gates (is from) the analytical community, while his predecessors all came out of the operation side,'' Colby said. 'With his appointment we have made a very symbolic step in the right direction.''

CIA analysts in the past have studied world oil markets and Latin American debt when those issues became critical to U.S. interests. Analysis will now focus on international industrial espionage and issues like AIDS and drug use that threaten American society, he said.

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